(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for extending financial assistance to the new sugar cooperative factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government does not give any financial assistance for establishment of new sugar factories. However, the Centra] Financial Institutions grant loans to new sugar factories after due appraisal of their projects.

Setting up sugar factories in Maharashtra

859. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has forwarded 119 proposals of co-operative Sugar factories;

(bj if so, by when the final decision would be taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that loans from the sugar development fund for cane development are not available to the new sugar factories; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to solve the problems of inadequate cane availability in the factories located in the non-traditional cane pockets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) After the issue of the Licensing Policy guidelines for the 7th Five Year Plan on 2.1.1987, Government of Maharashtra has forwarded 163 proposals for setting up of new sugar factories in the cooperative sector in Maharashtra State. Out of these, as on 30.6.1991, 125 proposals are still pending with the Government.

The licensing Policy guidelines for Sugar Industry are presently being re-*newed* by the Government. These of»- plications would be considered as per policy formulated after the aforesaid review.

(c) and (d) Loans from Sugar Development Fund for cane development schemes are normally not given until the trial crushing is over. Licencees are themselves required to take up appropriate cane development programme Irs the operational areas of new sugar factories in order to enable them to get adequate quantity of cane for crushing.

860. *[Transferred to 1st Angmt,* 1991]

Criteria for sanctioning new railway lines

861. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for sanctioning: the new railway lines;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra recommended Bir-Ahmednagar, Parli Vaijnath Railway line about 20 years back;

(c) if so. what are the reasons for not sanctioning the above railway line;

(d) whether Government propose to raise the funds as has been done in the case of Konkan Railway Project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if the answer to part (d) above be in negative the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALL1KARJUN): (a) The National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) in their Report submitted in May, 1980 had recommended the following criteria for new line projects:—

(i) Project-oriented lines to serve new industries or tap mineral or other resources.

(ii) To serve as a missing link which can form alternative routes to relieve the congestion on exsiting busy rail routes. "

(iii) On strategic considerations,